

100 Years of National Park Idea in the Hohe Tauern, Salzburg

Patrick Kupper



Keywords

History, National Park, Hohe Tauern, Global Conservation, Social Movement

Abstract

Since spring 2012 an international and interdisciplinary team investigates more than a hundred years of conservation practice in Austria's Hohe Tauern with a main focus on the Salzburg parts and the contested creation of the Hohe Tauern National Park. The Hohe Tauern National Park, founded in the 1980s, was the result of societal struggles, which lasted over several decades. First ideas took shape in the Austrian monarchy at the beginning of the 20th century when, in 1913, the German-Austrian Association for Nature Protection Parks (Deutsch-Österreichischer Verein Naturschutzpark) bought several alms in the Pinzgau valleys Stubach and Amer with a total area of approximately 1.000 ha. In the interwar years the German-Austrian Alpine Association, the Austrian League for Nature Protection, the socialist Friends of Nature and other organizations became involved into nature protection in the Hohe Tauern while during the time of National Socialist rule the region was subject to plans of Hermann Göring's Reichsforstministerium (Ministry of Forestry) to establish *grossdeutsche* national parks. In the post-war decades of reconstruction and growing prosperity different visions of development clashed. Ideas for strengthening nature protection were both driven and challenged by large infrastructure projects, mainly concerning water power, road construction, and an oil-pipeline, by agricultural intensification and by tourism. As in the decades before these issues were not restricted to the region or nation but influenced by developments on the international and global scale.

The main aims of the research project are, first, to highlight the long-term historical legacies of the Hohe Tauern National Park and, second, to locate its history within global conservation history. The results are being published in a book in Hohe Tauern National Park's series *Wissenschaftliche Schriften* in autumn 2013 (in German).



Bibliographical Information

Patrick Kupper, Anna-Katharina Wöbse, Geschichte des Nationalparks Hohe Tauern, mit Beiträgen von Ute Hasenöhrli, Georg Stöger, Ortrun Veichtlbauer, und Ronald Würflinger, Wissenschaftliche Schriften, hg. vom Salzburger Nationalparkfonds Hohe Tauern, Tyrolia: Innsbruck 2013.

Contact

Patrick Kupper
patrick.kupper@history.gess.ethz.ch
Institute for History
ETZ Zurich
Clausiusstrasse 59
8092 Zurich
Switzerland

